User Question: Interpretation of Plots

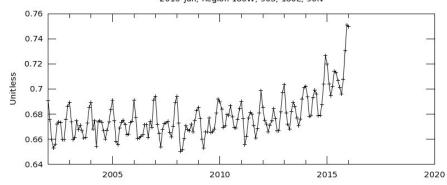
On retrieving the attached plots, I am at lost to interpret a couple of features,

In the "time series area averaged of cloud fraction from cloud mask" plot, obtained by MODIS-Terra, how is it to be interpreted the sharp increase from 2015 onwards? (it does not show up at all in the equivalent MODIS-Aqua plot).

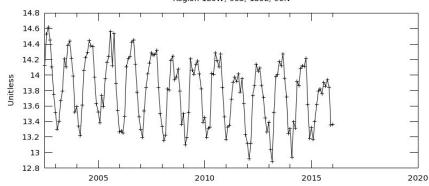
In the "time series area averaged of combined cloud optical thickness" plot, obtained by MODIS-Aqua, how is it to be interpreted the very marked minima at every February solstice, which appears in the global plot as well as for either hemisphere? (it does not show up at all in the equivalent MODIS-Terra plot).

Time Series, Area-Averaged of Cloud Fraction from Cloud Mask (count of lowest 2 clear sky confidence levels, cloudy & probably cloudy / total count) Day:

Mean of Daily Mean monthly 1 deg. [MODIS-Terra MOD08_M3 v6] over 2002-Jan 2016-Jan, Region 180W, 90S, 180E, 90N



Time Series, Area-Averaged of Combined Cloud Optical Thickness: Mean of Daily Mean monthly 1 deg. [MODIS-Aqua MYD08_M3 v6] over 2002-Jul - 2016-Jan, Region 180W, 90S, 180E, 90N



- Selected date range was 2002-Jan - 2016-Jan. Title reflects the date range of the granules that went into making this result.